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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Letter dated 30 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt on 27 December 1993 on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with the People of Bosnia and Herzegovina designated by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42.

(Signed) Dawlat HASSAN
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement by the official spokesman on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the Day of Solidarity with the People of Bosnia and Herzegovina

On the basis of the decision by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, convened at Istanbul in June 1992, that 27 December should be a day of solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirms Egypt's firm position of principle condemning all the practices to which the Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina are exposed. The crimes committed against this people are a weight on the conscience of mankind as a whole and demonstrate clearly the failure of the international community to put a halt to this tragedy. From the beginning, Egypt has emphatically warned in all international forums that what the Muslims are exposed to in Bosnia would be extremely prejudicial to the credibility of the principles, bases and instruments on which the international Organization is based. Egypt draws particular attention, in this connection, to ethnic cleansing, which constitutes a crime against all humanity, and calls upon the international conscience to pause for reflection, to make a joint effort to prevent dual standards and dual values and to take deterrent action to halt Serbian aggression against Bosnia.

Egypt's sons today form part of the United Nations forces in Bosnia, providing help to the Bosnians and sparing them some of the harshness of this murderous war, as a sign of Egypt's awareness of the importance of the inadmissibility of the use of force in international relations for the imposition of a fait accompli that conflicts with the bases of justice and international law.

On this Day, we register our gratitude and appreciation to all who have participated in efforts to bring humanitarian relief to the people of Bosnia and the international organizations that have been unsparing in their efforts to that end, first and foremost the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and we affirm the ongoing solidarity of the Egyptian people and Government with this great people. We deem its cause to be the cause of all peace-loving peoples, if this world of ours is ever to find a way to love, tolerance and creative cooperation for a better future for all mankind without distinction or discrimination.